

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 SAB-01 AID-05 TRSE-00 /080 W

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R 080651Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5580

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY BIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 6014

USIA FOR IOP/M IPS IBS INA

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

GENEVA FOR SAUNDERS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR JO XF

SUBJECT: JORDANIAN REACTION TO SINAI ACCORDS

REF A) AMMAN 5883 B) AMMAN 5970

1. SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH GOJ HAS OFFICIALLY REMAINED SILENT ON
INTERIM SINAI ACCORD EXCEPT TO DENY FAVORABLE REACTION ATTRI-
BUTED TO IT BY NEWS AGENCIES (REF A) GOVERNMENT-INFLUENCED
PRESS HAS MAINTAINED STEADY CRITICISM THROUGH EDI-
TORIALS AND CARTOONS. GENERAL PUBLIC APPEARS BITTERLY
DISAPPOINTED BY ACCORDS, CITING COMPLAINTS THAT WITH
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EGYPT OUT OF PICTURE MOVEMENT TO REGAIN WEST BAND OR

GOLAN FROZEN FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE. END SUMMARY.

2. GOJ INFLUENCED PRESS, PARTICULARLY GOVERNMENT SPONSORED AR RAYY HAS SINCE SEPT 2 PUBLISHED VIRTUALLY DAILY EDITORIAL CRITICISM OF SINAI ACCORDS. CARTOONS HAVE TENDED TO STRESS THESE OF GUILTESS ARABS HAVING BEEN TRADUCED BY ZIONISTS, WITH RESULTING SHATTERING OF ARAB UNITY. UNCLE SAM AND SADAT ARE DEPICTED AS SMILING OBSERVERS. EDITORIAL COMMENT HAS DEPLORED ABSENCE OF SIGNIFICANT GAINS BY EGYPT DIS-INTEGRATION OF ARAB UNITY LACK OF ANY COMMITTEMENT BY ISRAEL TO FURTHER WITHDRAWALS EITHER IN SANAI GOLAN OR THE WEST BANK, AND ABSENCE FROM GENEVA SIGNING CERMONY OF US AND USSR(ALSO SUGGESTING THAT NO SUPERPOWER PRESSURE WILL BE EXERTED ON ISRAEL FOR ADDITIONAL ADJUSTMENTS)

3. OTHER LOCAL REACTION HAS INCLUDED CONDEMNATION OF ACCORDS BY AMMAN PLO OFFICE (REF B) AS WELL AS SIMILAR PUBLIC DENUNCIATION BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF AMMAN BRANCH OF GENERAL ISLAMIC CONGRESS FOR JERUSALEM. DENUNCIATION PRINTED IN AR RAYY SEPT 6 REFERRED TO ACCORDS AS "BACKWARD STEP WHICH HAS CAUSED THE ARAB NATION TO FALL INTO A MAELSTROM OF ARGUMENT" GIVING THE ZIONISTS ENEMY A VAST FIELD IN WHICH TO MANEUVER".

4. AD-DUSTOUR SEPT 6 PRINTED TALK BY SEVERAL PRIMI-NENT JORDANIANS INCLUDING HEAD OF JORDAN UNIVERSITY DEPT OF ECONOMICS ONE EX MINISTER AND PRESIDENT OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF AD DUSTROU. PREDOMINANT OPINION OF NOTABLES APPEARS TO BE THAT ACCORDS HAVE SEVERAL DISADVANTAGES WITH ONLY ADVANTAGE BEING RETURN OF ABU RODEIS OILFIELDS TO EGYPT. PARTICPANTS HOWEVER CAUTION ARABS AGAINST EMOTIONAL REACTIONS AGAINST ACCORDS AT EXPENSE OF ARAB UNITY, AND RESERVE FINAL JUDGEMENT ON ULTIMATE SIGNIFICANCE OF PACT PRO OR CON WITH RESPECT TO JORDAN.

5. GOJ OFFICAL SPOKESMAN SEPT 6 DENIED "FOREIGN NEWS AGENCY REPORTS" THAT JORDAN HAD RECEIVED WITH SATISFACTION DETAILS OF SINAI ACCORDS FOLLOWING SECRETARY'S VISIT
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(REF A) STATEMENT MADE CLEAR THAT GOJ HAD TAKEN NO POSITION ON ACCORDS NO ADDITIONAL GOJ REACTION HAS BEEN FORHTCOMING.

6. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS BEEN STRUCK BY VIRULENCE OF MOST JORDANIANS PERSONAL DENUNCIATION OF ACCORDS AND VIRUTAL ABSENCE OF PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS OF FAVORABLE COMMENT. ONE KNOWLEDGEABLE CONTACT ESTIMATED THAT "99PERCENT OF ARABS ARE AGAINST ACCORD". CRITICISM MUST OFTEN HEARD IS FEAR

THAT JORDAN DUE TO EGYPTIAN OPPORTUNISM HAS WITH SYRIA
BEEN REMOVED FROM NEGOTIATING PICTURE WITH CONSEQUENT
FREEZING OF MOVEMENT TOWARD RECOVERY OF GOLAN OR WEST
BANK. PRIVATE JORDANIANS HAVE BEEN CITING FIGURES (SQUARE
KILOMETERS) TO EXPRESS THEIR DESPAIR AT APPARENT
HOPELESSNESS OF REGAINING WEST BANK, SINCE IN THEIR
VIEW VAST EFFORT EXPANDED BY US TO WREST ALLEGEDLY
MINIMAL TERRITORIAL GAINS FROM ISRAEL IN SINAI CAN
NEVER BE EQUALLED TO RECOVER WEST BANK. SOME CONTACTS
HAVE INDICATED FEAR THAT ACCORD WILL CAUSE STAGNATION
OF NEGOTIATING PROCESS WHICH IN TURN WILL STIMULATE
RENEWAL OF VIOLENCE AND UPRISINGS WITHIN ARAB WORLD,
SUCH AS OCCURRED FOLLOWING 1948 ARAB-ISRAELI ARMSISTICE.

7. EMBASSY DOES NOT INTERPRET GOJ ANNOUNCEMENT (PARA 5) TO MEAN
SHIFT ON GOJ POSITION OF PRIVE ACCEPTANCE OF SINAI AGREEMENT
AS LONG AS IT IS WITHIN CONTEXT OF MOMENTUM FOR LARGER
SETTLEMENT INVOLVING RECOVERY OF OTHER OCCUPIED LANDS. HOWEVER
GOJ STILL BELIEVES AND HAS SAID PRIVATELY THAT EGYPT HAS PAID TOO
HIGH A PRICE FOR THE AGREEMENT. GOJ MADE CLEAR PRIOR TO VISIT
OF SECRETARY THAT IT IS NOT TAKING PUBLIC POSITION ON ACCORD.
THIS REMAINS THEIR PRESENT POSITION BUT THERE ARE SOME SIGNS
THAT GOJ IS LEANING TOWARD EVENTUALLY TAKING A NEGATIVE PUBLIC
STAND. SYRIAN DEP PM FOR FORMIN KHADDAM WAS IN AMMAN MORNING
SEPT 7 PRESUMABLY TO PRESS SYRIAN(BAATH PARTY) NEGATIVE
VIEWS ON JORDAN.
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